

LEGISLATURE OF DAKOTA TERRITORY.

APRIL 11, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

MR. CARLETON, from the Committee on the Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4359.]

The Committee on the Territories, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4359) in relation to the legislature of the Territory of Dakota, respectfully submit the following report:

By act of Congress approved June 19, 1878, the legislatures of the respective Territories are limited to twelve members of the council and twenty-four members of the house of representatives, and the number of council districts to twelve, and the representative districts to twenty-four. By the statutes of Dakota, 1883, chapter 7, the Territory of Dakota is apportioned into twelve legislative districts, and provision is made for the election of one councilman and two members from each of said districts. The sessions of Territorial legislatures are limited to — days, and the pay of members to \$4 per day and 20 cents per mile for travel. The Territory of Dakota paid last year into the Treasury \$21,175 excess of revenue, over and above all expenditures for postal service in that Territory, and on account of internal revenue, \$86,875. The bill now under consideration provides for increasing the number of members of council from twelve to twenty-four and the number of members of the house from twenty-four to forty-eight, and the election of two councilmen and four members, instead of one councilman and two members as heretofore, from each of the twelve districts provided for by the statutes of the Territory, thus leaving the division of the Territory into legislative districts and apportionment of members as now provided by the statutes of the Territory. The increased expense to the Government will be the pay of thirty-six members for — days, and mileage once in every two years.

The Territory of Dakota has an area of 149,100 square miles, a population of upwards of 350,000 persons, exclusive of Indians, with an assessed valuation of \$80,000,000, 2,475 miles of railroads in operation, and is being rapidly settled and developed in all of its different sections.

Your committee are therefore of the opinion that the legislature as now provided by law for this vast Territory, with its increasing population and varied interests, is too small and should be increased to the extent provided for in this bill, and report the same back and recommend that it do pass.

